

APPENDIX A

About Internet Explorer



Microsoft Internet Explorer

Version: 6.0.2800.1106
Cipher Strength: 128-bit
Product ID: 55736-285-3485341-04846
Update Versions: SP1; Q832894; Q330994; Q837009;
Q831167; Q823353; Q867801; Q833989;

Based on NCSA Mosaic. NCSA Mosaic(TM); was
developed at the National Center for Supercomputing
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Champaign.

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Acknowledgements



Understanding security zones

Understanding security zones

Internet Explorer divides your Internet world into zones, so that you can assign a Web site to a zone with a suitable security level.

You can tell which zone the current Web page is in by looking at the right side of the Internet Explorer status bar. Whenever you attempt to open or download content from the Web, Internet Explorer checks the security settings for that Web site's zone.

There are four zones:

- **Internet zone:** By default, this zone contains anything that is not on your computer or an intranet, or assigned to any other zone. The default security level for the Internet zone is Medium. You can change your privacy settings for the Internet zone on the Privacy tab in Internet Options. For more information, click **Related Topics**.
- **Local intranet zone:** This zone typically contains any addresses that don't require a proxy server, as defined by the system administrator. These include sites specified on the **Connections** tab, network paths (such as \\computername\foldername), and local intranet sites (typically addresses that don't contain periods, such as http://internal). You can add sites to this zone. The default security level for the Local intranet zone is Medium, therefore, Internet Explorer will allow all cookies from Web sites in this zone to be saved on your computer and read by the Web site that created them.
- **Trusted sites zone:** This zone contains sites you trust—sites that you believe you can download or run files from without worrying about damage to your computer or data. You can assign sites to this zone. The default security level for the Trusted sites zone is Low, therefore, Internet Explorer will allow all cookies from Web sites in this zone to be saved on your computer and read by the Web site that created them.
- **Restricted sites zone:** This zone contains sites you don't trust—sites that you're not sure whether you can download or run files from without damage to your computer or data. You can assign sites to this zone. The default security level for the Restricted sites zone is High, therefore, Internet Explorer will block all cookies from Web sites in this zone.

In addition, any files already on your local computer are assumed to be very safe, so minimal security settings are assigned to them. You cannot assign a folder or drive on your computer to a security zone.

You can change the security level for a zone; for example, you might want to change the security setting for your Local intranet zone to Low. Or, you can customize the settings within a zone. You can also customize settings for a zone by importing a privacy settings file from a certificate authority.

Related Topics

Using secure Internet sites for transactions

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Using secure Internet sites for transactions

Many Internet sites are set up to prevent unauthorized people from seeing the information that is sent to or from those sites. These are called "secure" sites. Because Internet Explorer supports the security protocols used by secure sites, you can send information to a secure site with safety and confidence. (A protocol is a set of rules and standards that enable computers to exchange information.)

When you visit a secure Web site, it automatically sends you its certificate, and Internet Explorer displays a lock icon on the status bar. (A certificate is a statement verifying the identity of a person or the security of a Web site. For more information, click **Related Topics** below.)

If you are about to send information (such as your credit card number) to an insecure site, Internet Explorer can warn you that the site is not secure. If the site claims to be secure but its security credentials are suspect, Internet Explorer can warn you that the site might have been tampered with or might be misrepresenting itself.

Related Topics